

## GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS, TOLERANCE LEVELS AND WILDLIFE HABITAT RATINGS

				Tolerance Ratings <sup>2</sup>		Wildlife Ratings <sup>3</sup>				
				Drought	Saline	Birds		Mammals		
Common Name	20-Year Height (feet)	Spacing within rows	Growth Rate <sup>1</sup>	Tolerance min. precip. (inches)	Alkali soil Tolerance	Nesting	Food	Cover	Browse	Comments
SHRUBS										
Buffaloberry, Silver	10	4-8	M	E-10	E	E	E	E	E	Native, thorny, very hardy. Forms thickets. Fruit makes excellent jelly.
Caragana	12	4-8	R	E-9	G	E	F	F	P	Our hardiest shrub. Excellent drought tolerance & rapid growth. Great for windrows.
Cherry, Nanking	6	3-6	M	G-11	F	E	E	F	E	Used on leeward side of windbreak. Fruit edible & good for jelly. Showy flowers.
Cherry, Sand	2-3	2-4	M	G-11	F	G	E	F	F	Small, short lived shrub. Excellent bird plant. Fruit excellent for jellies & jams.
Chokecherry	12	4-8	M	G-11	F	E	E	E	F	Native. Used for wildlife habitat & erosion control. Suckers to form thickets.
Cotoneaster, Centennial	8-10	4-6	M	E-10	G	E	E	F	P	Large, attractive, hardy shrub. Fruit is bright red when ripe. May be fire blight resistant.
Currant, Golden	6	4-6	M	G-11	F	G	G	F	G	Native. Rapid growth rate. Drought & cold tolerant. Used for wildlife & windbreaks.
Dogwood, Red Osier	8	4-6	R	P-18	P	E	F	E	G	Native. Deep red bark. Used for wildlife & stabilization. Usually needs irrigation.
Honeysuckle, Blue-leaf	8	4-8	M	G-11	G	E	E	G	P	Resistant to witches-broom aphid. Fruit readily consumed by most birds.
Lilac, Common	8	4-8	S-M	G-11	F	E	P	E	P	Used in windbreaks & wildlife habitat. Showy purple flowers. Long-lived. Suckers.
Lilac, Late	10	4-8	M	G-12	F	G	P	G	P	Non-suckering, pinkish flower. Use in windbreaks. Not as drought-tolerant a Lilac.
Plum, American	10	4-8	M	G-12	F	E	G	G	E	Large fruit provides excellent wildlife food and is edible. Suckers to form thickets.
Rose, Woods	4	3-6	M	G-11	P	E	E	E	E	Showy pink flowers. Used for wildlife habitat. Suckers aggressively.
Sagebrush, Wyoming Big	3	3-6	S	E-8	G	F	P	F	E	Very cold and drought tolerant native shrub. Valuable winter browse.
Saltbush, Fourwing Gardner	20	2-4	S	E-5	E	G	P	G	E	A cold, drought and alkaline tolerant native shrub. White-gray foliage adapted to a variety of soil types.
Sand Cherry	2-3	2-4	M	G-11	F	G	E	F	F	Small, short lived shrub. Excellent bird plant. Fruit excellent for jellies & jams.
Serviceberry	10-14	4-6	M	G-12	P	G	E	G	G	Native; preferred wildlife food plant for many species. Showy white blossom.
Silverberry	4-6	4-6	M	G-12	G	G	G	F	F	Native bottomland species. Very aggressive spreader. Excellent for erosion control.
Snowberry, Western	2-4	4-6	M	G-12	F	F	G	P	F	Common natives. Persists exceptionally well through drought, fire, and heavy grazing. Western snowberry is the dominant snowberry in Eastern MT.
Sumac, Skunk	8	4-6	S	E-9	G	E	F	E	G	Very drought-tolerant once established. Excellent wildlife habitat. Slow grower.
Willow, Sandbar	10	3-6	R	P-15	G	G	F	G	G	Grown from native collections. Drought-tolerant for willow but requires regular water source. Suckers aggressively.
Willow, Sandbar (YS County)	10	3-6	R	F-14	G	G	F	G	G	Grown from a slightly saline collection site that was atypically dry for willows.
Willows, Booth, Drummond, Pacific, Planeleaf, Sitka, Yellow	6-12	2-8	R	P-20	F	E	F	G	G	Native streamside species from various Western Montana watersheds. Use for stream bank stabilization, fisheries, and wildlife habitat. Most require planting in true riparian habitat for good survival.
DECIDUOUS TREES										
Alder, Sitka	12	6-10	F	P-16	F	G	P	G	F	Multi-stemmed mountain species. Nitrogen fixer. Adapts to poor soils. Prefers moist sites.
Alder, Thinleaf	16	6-10	F	P-16	F	G	P	F	F	Multi-stemmed mountain species. Nitrogen fixer. Adapts to poor soils. Prefers moist sites.
Ash, Green	18	8-12	M	E-11	G	G	F	F	G	Drought, cold and alkaline resistant. Used in windbreaks. Very adaptable.
Aspen	30	6-10	R	P-15	P	G	P	G	F	Forms thickets from root suckers. Showy fall color. Best at mid to high elevations.
Birch, River	20	6-10	R	P-16	F	G	F	F	F	Native streamside birch distinguished by its smooth, deep red bark.

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				Drought	Saline	Birds		Mammals		
Common Name	20-Year Height (feet)	Spacing within rows	Growth Rate <sup>1</sup>	Tolerance min. precip. (inches)	Alkali soil Tolerance	Nesting	Food	Cover	Browse	
Cherry, Black	15	6-12	M	G-12	F	F	G	F	F	Nice ovoid shape. Unpalatable to grasshoppers. Not adapted to alkaline soils.
Cottonwoods	30-45	8-15	R	P-16	F	F	P	P	F	Noted for rapid growth on moist sites. Used for windbreaks, stabilization and wildlife.
Crabapple, Midwest	15	6-10	R	G-12	F	F	G	F	F	Showy spring flowers, small fruit. Good fall/winter bird food. Very adaptable and hardy.
Elm, Siberian	25	8-15	R	E-11	G	F	F	P	P	Very drought-tolerant. Rapid growth rate. Very short-lived. Disease prone.
Hackberry	20	8-12	M	G-12	G	G	P	F	G	Drought resistant. Tolerates most soil types. Subject to frost damage when young.
Hawthorn, Arnold	15	6-10	M	G-12	F	E	E	G	G	Vigorous, dense small tree. Excellent for wildlife & windbreaks. Adapts to heavy soils.
Hawthorn, Black	15	6-10	M	F-15	F	E	E	E	F	Native bottomland tree. Thorny habit provides excellent cover. Birds prize fruit.
Maple, Amur	14	4-8	M	G-12	F	F	P	F	F	Brilliant fall color; adapts well to all but heavy or alkaline soils.
Oak, Bur	16	8-14	M	G-12	G	G	E	G	E	Hardy, long-lived tree. Acorns excellent wildlife food. Very drought tolerant once est..
Poplar, Prairie Sky	30-45	6-10	R	F-14	F	F	P	P	F	Cottonless, drought and cold tolerant. Narrow upright form similar to Lombardi Poplar.
Willow, Golden	30-40	8-15	R	F-14	F	F	F	F	F	Large, graceful, fast-growing tree. Needs irrigation. Twigs are golden yellow in color.
EVERGREENS										
Fir, Douglas	15	8-14	M	F-14	P	G	F	P	P	Higher moisture needs for good growth, but survives drought periods. Used in windbreaks and reforestation.
Juniper, Rocky Mountain	14	6-12	M	E-10	G	G	G	G	E	Excellent in wildlife plantings. Very drought and alkali tolerant. Transplants well.
Larch, Western	20	8-14	M-R	P-15	P	F	F	P	P	Used mostly for reforestation plantings in Western Montana. Drops needles in winter.
Pine, Austrian	17	8-14	M-R	F-12	F	G	F	F	P	Excellent in windbreak. Adapts to many soil types. Susceptible to needle blight disease.
Pine, Limber	12	6-12	S	E-10	P	G	F	F	P	Very hardy and slow growing. Use where other evergreens can't survive.
Pine, Lodgepole	17	8-14	M	F-14	F	G	P	F	P	Used mostly for reforestation and reclamation of mid to high altitude sites.
Pine, Ponderosa	17	8-14	M	G-11	F	G	F	F	P	Most drought-tolerant pine. Used for windbreaks and reforestation. Very long-lived.
Pine, Scotch	17	8-14	M-R	G-12	F	P	G	P	P	Relatively rapid growth. Adapts to most sites. Used for Christmas trees, windbreaks.
Pine, White	15	8-14	M	P-16	P	G	F	P	P	Excellent reforestation species. High stumpage value. Grown from rust resistant seed.
Spruce, Black Hills	12	8-14	S	F-12	F	E	F	P	P	Similar to Blue Spruce. Slower growing, but better cold tolerance. Medium height.
Spruce, Colorado Blue	15	8-14	M	F-12	F	E	F	P	P	Excellent for windbreaks; dense crown. Few are actually blue. Slow initial growth.
Spruce, Engelmann	14	8-14	S	P-15	P	E	F	G	P	Used mostly for reforestation and reclamation of wet, high elevation sites.
GRASSES										
Basin Wildrye	6	2-6	M	E-9	G	E	G	P	F	Large, cool season bunchgrass. Excellent for upland game birds.
Bluebunch Wheatgrass	3	2-4	M	E-10	F	P	P	P	F	Densely tufted, cool season bunchgrass. Use for stabilization. Very palatable.
<sup>1</sup> Growth rate: R = Rapid, M = Moderate, S = Slow										
<sup>2</sup> Relative Tolerance Ratings: E = Excellent, G = Good, F = Fair, P = Poor. Drought tolerance = relative ability to tolerate drought conditions; minimum precipitation = least amount of annual precipitation that can be expected to result in satisfactory survival and growth in windbreaks with cultivation, planted in well-drained soils with good moisture-holding capacity and gently sloping terrain. Saline/Alkali Tolerance = relative ability to tolerate saline/alkali soil conditions.										
<sup>3</sup> Wildlife Habitat Suitability Ratings: E = Excellent, G = Good, F = Fair, P = Poor										